



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District
PN-07-68

In Reply to Application Number
NAB-2007-07910-P09(Troy Area School District Track and Field)

Comment Period: October 29, 2007 to November 27, 2007

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33. U.S.C. 1344) as described below:

APPLICANT: Troy Area School District
c/o Robert Grantier, Superintendent
310 Elmira Street
Troy, PA 16947

LOCATION: The facility is proposed on Troy Middle School property, which is situated just north of Troy Senior High School in Troy, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

WORK DESCRIPTION: In accordance with the attached plans, the Troy School District proposes to construct a new Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)-certified track and field facility for the Troy Area High School track team in Troy, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The facility is proposed on Troy Middle School property, which is situated on a neighboring parcel just north of Troy Senior High School. If constructed, the proposed facility will permanently impact 0.57 acres of palustrine scrub-shrub/emergent wetlands, and 0.84 acres of palustrine open-water habitat. The waters of the United States to be impacted drain to Sugar Creek, a perennial waterway, through an intermittent stream channel.

MITIGATION PROPOSAL: The applicant proposes to mitigate the permanent impacts from the proposed construction by creating 0.60 acres of scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands, and by stabilizing 200 linear feet of eroding stream channel in Sugar Creek just below the Middle School property. The proposed wetland creation area is located just to the west of the proposed track in an upland area that is surrounded by scrub shrub and emergent wetlands on three sides. The channel stabilization involves placing rip rap along the toe of steep eroding stream banks that are contributing large quantities of sediment to receiving waters.

All work will be completed in accordance with the enclosed plan(s). If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Matt Gall at (814) 235-1762.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonable may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economic, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and

accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, State College Field Office, 1631 South Atherton Street, State College, Pennsylvania. 16801, with the comment period specified above.

The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through the issuance of a Section 105 permit or through direct application to the Regional Office in the area of the proposed project. The Section 404 certifying agency has a statutory limit of one year in which to make its decision.

The applicant must obtain any State or local government permits which may be required.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not affect Federal listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

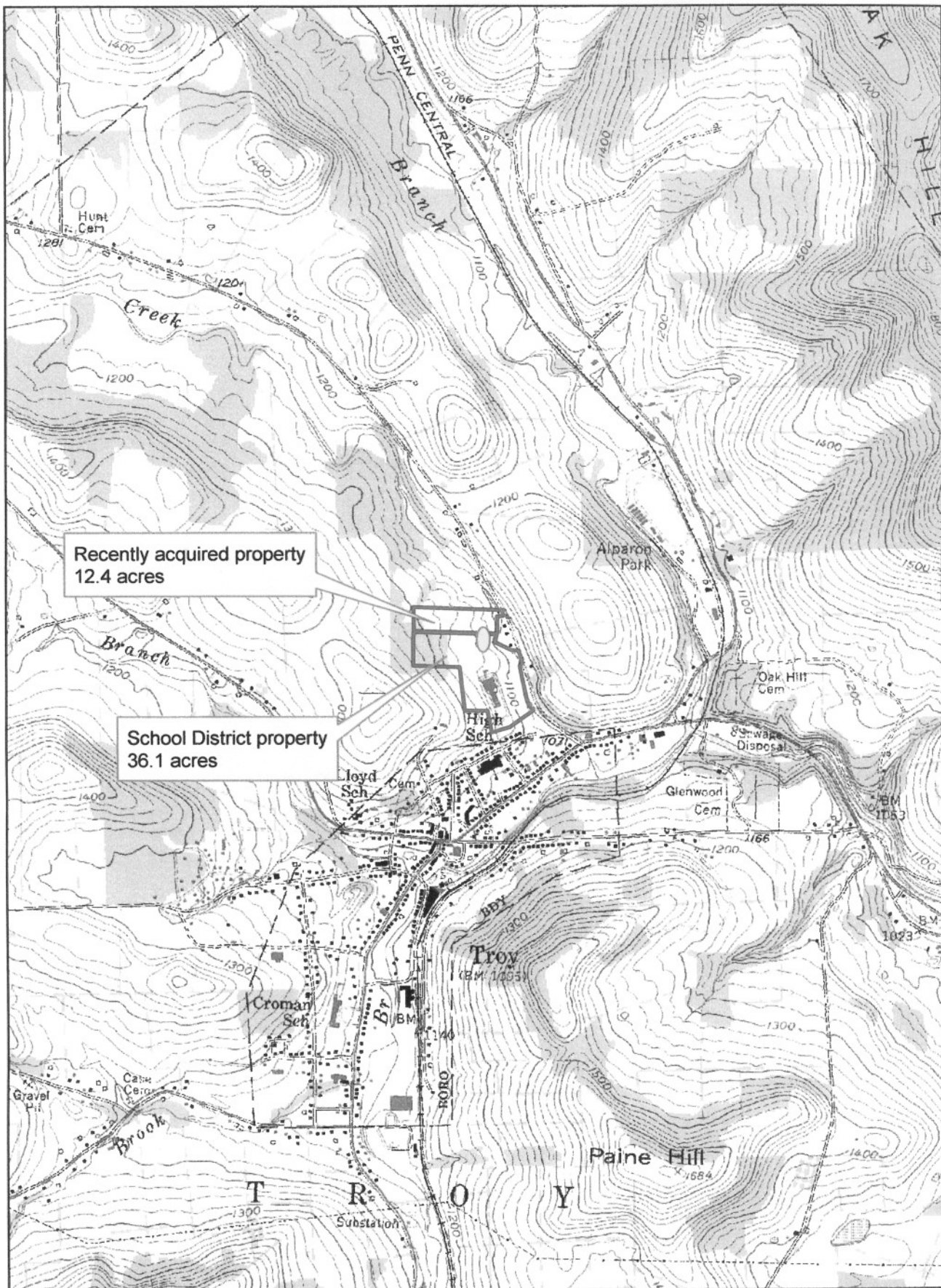
Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion, therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the request permit.

The evaluation of the impact of this project on the public interest will include applications of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, State College Field Office, 1631 South Atherton Street, State College, Pennsylvania 16801, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Also it must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

It is requested that you communicate this information concerning the proposed work to any persons know by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

Location Map

Troy Area School District Track Project



Troy Quad

Subject properties




Proposed Track Location

Troy Area School District Track Project

Troy Borough and Troy Township

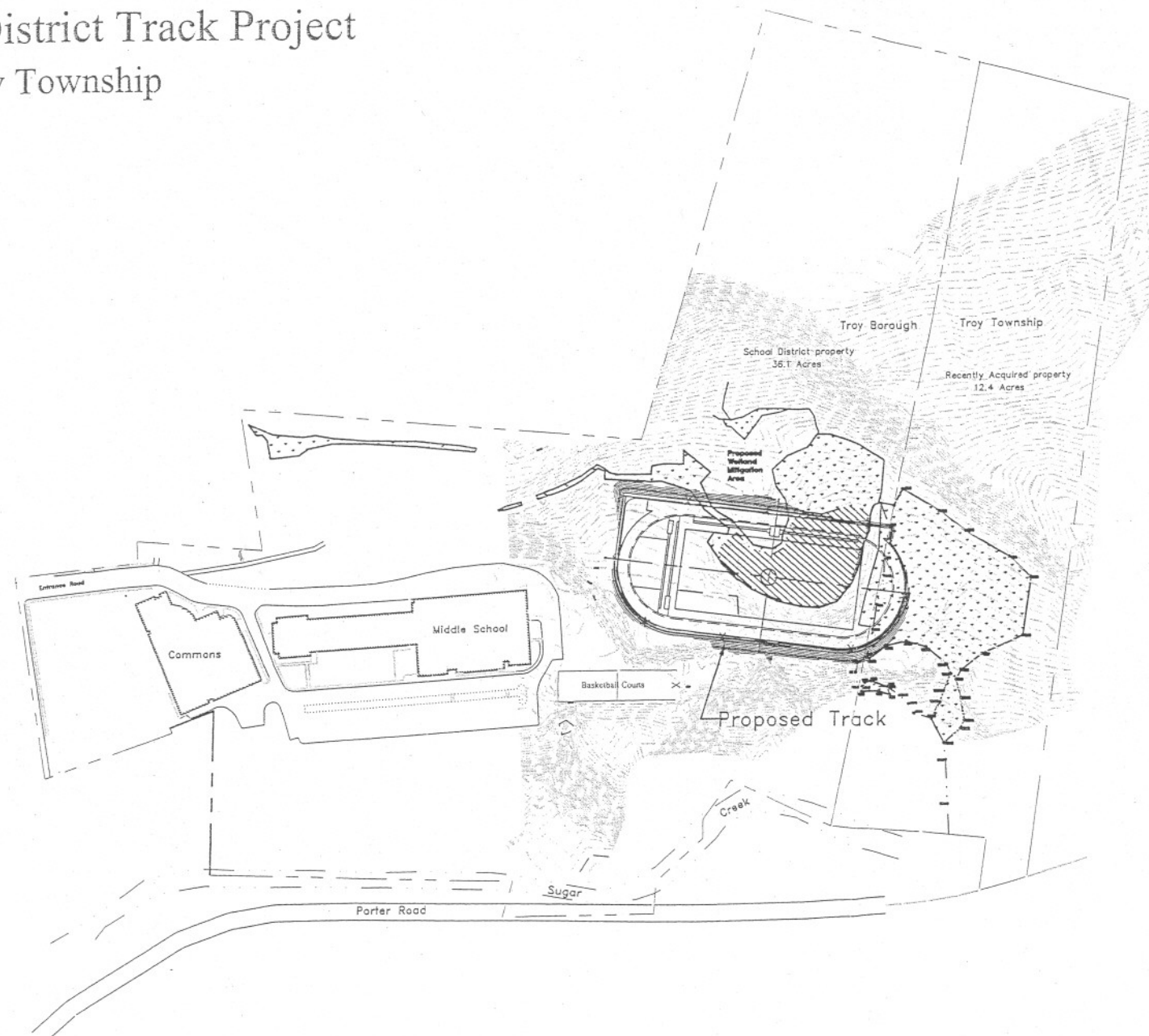
Bradford County

Waters of the US

 Deep Water (> 18")

 Wetlands

 Stream



Alternatives Analysis Troy High School Track Project

1. Project need

A new track facility for the Troy Area High School track team has been identified by the Troy Area School District as a priority need. The construction of a new track can be justified on the basis of two basic needs:

1. There are no facilities to host home track meets; the team must travel to all of the meets it participates in.
2. The existing practice facilities at Alpron Park in Troy Township, are inadequate and the district has limited site control at the park.

With no home track facilities, the district must incur costs to transport the team to track meets. Since 2002, the district has spent an average of nearly \$5,000 a year in transportation and related costs in order for the team to compete at away meets. Additional monies are spent in transporting team members that participate in sprints, hurdles and pole-vaulting to Mansfield University (18 miles) for practice sessions. Approximately \$1,400 has been spent in transporting these participants during the past two track seasons. An additional \$600 was spent in the past season to provide shuttle services to from the High School to Alpron Park for practice sessions.

The school district is in a lease agreement to use Alpron Park for track practice (and football), at a rate of \$16,000 a year. Facilities at the park are less than desirable. The on-site track does not meet PIAA standards and generally is in sub-standard condition and unfit to run on. Its surface is composed of cinders spread over dirt, and after heavy rain events the surface is in rough shape. In addition, every summer during the Troy Fair the track site is used for a demolition derby, which subsequently results in the need for maintenance work to restore the track site. In 2005, the district spent nearly \$1,000 for various repairs and projects at the park. See the attached documentation provided by the school district for cost breakdowns.

2. Practical Alternatives

Refer to the attached *Track Location and Alignment Alternatives* when reviewing this section.

A. Location:

Locating the new track on the Middle School property is the best alternative. The property contains sufficient undeveloped space to accommodate the footprint of a track (roughly 600x200 feet) and bleachers. In addition, parking, locker room facilities, and equipment storage space already exist at the Middle School. Also, a new track at the Middle School would be within short walking distance of the High School, which would

eliminate costs associated with transporting participants to home meets and practices at an alternative location within the district.

A track at the Middle School would also serve the purpose of providing easily accessible facilities for physical education classes for both the middle and high schools.

B. Off Site Alternatives:

Of the five properties that the Troy Area School District owns-three elementary schools, the Middle School, and the High School-only the Middle School and East Troy Elementary School properties have sufficient room for a track. The East Troy site however, has an existing baseball field that would have to be relocated to accommodate a track. In addition, the field lies within the flood plain of Leonard Creek. In 2002 the creek flooded and carried away the infield soil mix, which subsequently cost the district \$6,000 to replace. Placing a new track surface in this area not only exposes it to potentially costly flood damage, but would also require relocating a baseball field that the district has recently invested in to repair.

In addition to the flood plain concerns, a variety of other issues make this site an undesirable alternative. There are no existing locker room and equipment storage facilities on-site, and parking is limited. Furthermore, constructing new locker rooms at East Troy would necessitate additional costs to upgrade on-site public water supply and sewer infrastructure. Locating a track in East Troy would also require continued, and most likely, increased transportation costs associated with transporting the team from the High School to the East Troy site (5 miles) for practice and home meets. Finally the East Troy site is not covered by emergency services that originate in Troy, but rather by services that come from Towanda, which is nearly 20 miles away from the site. These issues leave the Middle School property as the only viable location for a new track.

C. Middle School Site:

1. *On-site Constraints:* Open, undeveloped land suitable for a track lies directly to the north and west of the school building. These areas include steep inclines and wetlands, which are both physically impossible to avoid at the same time. In order to minimize impacts to regulated waters, and costly grading operations during construction, the school district has recently acquired an adjacent 12.4 acre property to the north of the Middle School property. The addition of this property allows some flexibility in placement of the track.

2. *Avoidance of Regulated Waters:* The combination of steep slopes, and the large 600' X 200' footprint of a PIAA regulation-size track makes it essentially impossible to avoid wetlands or the pond. The newly acquired property to the north also contains wetlands.

3. *Minimizing Impacts to Regulated Waters:* The proposed track alignment attempts to minimize impacts to regulated waters, while also limiting costly cut/fill grading. An initial north-south alignment minimized cut/fill, but impacted 1.38 acres of the wetland/pond system. An east-west alignment was also examined, and though it had only a total of 0.59 acres of impacts to the wetland/pond system, it had a significant amount of

costly cut/fill (81,623 CY) associated with it. For the initial permit submission, prior to acquiring the adjoining property, impacts totaled 1.15 acres and included 35,469 CY of cut/fill.

The final north-south aligned track layout impacts 1.39 acres of the wetland/pond system. Though impacts on the school district property were minimized to 1.11 acres by moving the track as far to the east as possible, an additional 0.28 acres of wetlands will be impacted on the newly acquired parcel to the north. Cut/fill is balanced with this alignment at 7,594 CY.

D. No Build Alternative

If the proposed track project would not go forward, the current situation would remain. Participants would continue to be transported to Alparon Park for practices at an unsuitable site, and to Mansfield for pole vaulting, sprinting and hurdles practices. Also the track team would have no home meets and would need to be transported to all of the track meets it participates in, which is not a simple matter, as roughly one hundred students participate in track every year.

3. Conclusions

There is a strong need for new track facilities for the Troy Area School District. Existing conditions at the practice track at Alapron Park are less-than-desirable and participants must always travel to meets to compete. The Middle School property is the best location for a track. Sufficient parking, locker room, and equipment storage facilities already exist, and it is close enough to the High School to discontinue the need for transporting participants to practice.

The proposed track layout attempts to balance the need to minimize wetland impacts and costly cut/fill construction. The attached spreadsheet summarizes alternatives that were reviewed prior to preparing this permit application.

**Track Location and Alignment Alternatives
Costs and Considerations**

Alternatives	Distance from School	Locker Room Facilities	Parking	Impacts to "Waters of the US" ¹	Cut (CY) Fill (CY)	Net Cut/Fill Cost Range ³	Land Cost	Transportation Costs ⁴	Other Considerations
Proposed north-south alignment on Middle School and newly acquired parcels	0	Yes, at MS	Yes, 144 spaces at MS	Total: 1.39 acres Open Water: 0.84 Wetlands: 0.55	7,594 7,594	0	Acquisition of adjoining Storch property	0	This alignment avoids impacting the best quality wetlands that lie along the western edge of the pond
Previously proposed north-south alignment at Middle School	0	Yes, at MS	Yes, 144 spaces at MS	Total: 1.15 acres Open Water: 0.84 Wetlands: 0.31 ²	27,831 7,638	20,193 CY Cut \$80,772-\$201,930	0	0	Track construction would require a costly (\$100,000) retaining wall
Original north-south alignment at Middle School	0	Yes, at MS	Yes, 144 spaces at MS	Total: 1.38 acres Open Water: 0.54 Wetlands: 0.84	9,308 7,417	1,891 CY Cut \$7,564-\$18,910	0	0	-
East-west alignment at Middle School	0	Yes, at MS	Yes, 144 spaces at MS	Total: 0.59 acres Open Water: 0.12 Wetlands: 0.47	80,766 857	79,909 CY Cut \$319,636-\$799,090	0	0	-
East Troy Elementary School	3.5 miles	No	Limited, would need more	0	NA	NA	0	Yes, undetermined	1) Site in floodplain, 2) upgrades to sewer and water infrastructure required, 3) emergency services from Towanda
Alparon Park (No build alternative)	1.6 miles	Yes	Yes	0	NA	NA	Lease Costs: \$16,000/yr + Maintenance Costs \$987 ⁵	Meets: \$3,864 Practice-Mansfield: \$1,349 Practice-at Park: \$210	1) Track at park does not meet PIAA standards, 2) track surface composed of dirt and cinders, 3) track generally unsafe to run on

Notes

- 1 Open Water defined as that component of the Pond that is 18" or greater in depth. Pond consists of 0.84 acres of Open Water.
- 2 Wetland impacts included 0.15 acres of existing wetlands that would have been impacted by grading for the construction of the replacement wetland.
- 3 Cut/Fill Costs dependent on if material can be handled and stored on site (\$4 per CY) or must be transported off-site (\$10 per CY).
- 4 Transportation cost based on amount spent transporting track team during the 2004/2005 school year.
- 5 Maintenance costs for Alparon Park based on amount spent to date for 2005/2006 school year.